

URBAN DISTRICT  
— OF —  
**SOWERBY.**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
ON THE  
**Health and Sanitary State**  
of the District  
**FOR THE YEAR 1932.**

SOWERBY BRIDGE :  
WILLIAM ACKROYD, PRINTER, TOWN HALL BUILDINGS.

1933



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# *Urban District Council of Sowerby.*

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE,**

December 31st, 1932.

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Councillor A. FISHWICK,  
*Chairman of Council.*

„ JOHN BATES, J.P.  
„ J. W. WHITELEY, J.P.  
„ J. T. MITCHELL.  
„ J. LUM.  
„ A. SUTCLIFFE.  
„ F. A. FOSTER.  
„ A. F. LONGBOTTOM.  
„ W. LUMB.  
„ G. W. TUCKER, J.P.  
„ G. SHARP.  
„ W. JAMES.  
„ F. GREENWOOD.  
„ G. A. ROBERTS.  
„ E. LUMB.  
„ S. HANSON, J.P.  
„ C. W. MAUDE, J.P.  
„ R. H. HOWARTH,

*Chairman of Sanitary and Hospital Committee*

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

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*Chairman : Mr. Councillor R. H. HOWARTH.*

*Medical Officer of Health : WILLIAM DUGUID, M.B., Ch.B.*

*Sanitary Inspector :*

T. GRIME, M. Inst. M. & Cy. E., Cert. R. San. Inst.

## Urban District of Sowerby.

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### STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of water) ...	$3025\frac{1}{2}$
Rateable Value ... ... ... ... ...	£64,311
Altitude—varies from 230ft. to 1250ft. above sea level.	
Latitude, 53 deg. 42 N.	Longitude, 1 deg. 56 W.
Population ... ... ... ... ...	14,710
Birth Rate (1931) ... ... ... ...	12·5
Birth Rate (1932) ... ... ... ...	13·0
Death Rate (1931) ... ... ... ...	16·1
*Death Rate (1932) ... ... ... ...	17·6
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (1931) ...	20
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (1932) ...	16·0

\*See Deaths in Old Age, page 6.

# REPORT OF THE Medical Officer of Health For the Year ending 1932.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and statistics of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1932.

The population during the year under review is taken as 14,710, the figures furnished by the Registrar-General.

## BIRTHS.

The births registered in the district during the year 1932 were 192 as compared with 283 in the previous year, and an average of 210 for the past five years.

Of the 192 registered births, 90 were males and 102 were females. There were in addition to these 11 still births—7 males and 4 females. There were 10 illegitimate births registered—4 males and 6 females. There was one illegitimate still birth—a male.

This birth-rate corresponds to a birth-rate of 13 per thousand of the population per annum, against 12·5 in 1931, 13·1 in 1930, 12·2 in 1929, and 12·2 in 1928.

The average number of births registered for the past five years has been 210 in your area.

The birth-rate for smaller towns in England and Wales in 1932 was 15·4.

### DEATHS.

There were 200 deaths registered in your area during 1932, to which has been added 59 deaths of persons who died outside the area but whose homes were in this district, making a total of 259 deaths, as compared with 279 in 1931, and an average of 255 for the past five years.

Of the total deaths in 1932, 132 were males and 127 females, giving a death-rate for the year of 17·6 per 1000 of the population, against 16·1 for 1931, and 13·0 for 1930.

The death-rate for smaller towns in England and Wales in 1932 was 10·8 per 1000 of the population.

The 59 deaths of residents of this area which occurred outside the area took place in public institutions in Halifax, the West Riding Asylums, and other places of a similar kind.

Table of Deaths at subjoined ages :—

1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	
8	20	14	15	9	under 1 year
6	5	2	2	6	1 to 5 years
1	2	3	5	3	5 to 15 ,,
1	4	5	12	17	15 to 25 ,,
89	77	75	90	94	25 to 65 ,,
67	56	58	70	46	65 to 75 ,,
87	71	45	60	50	over 75 ,,
—	—	—	—	—	
259	235	202	254	225	

The following table shows the number of births and deaths, as well as the birth-rates and death-rates for the past five years :—

Year	Births	Birth-rate	Deaths	Death-rate
1928	196	12·2	225	15·6
1929	198	12·3	254	16·0
1930	200	13·1	202	13·0
1931	283	12·3	279	16·1
1932	192	13·0	259	15·1
Average for five years }	214	12·6	244	15·2

Fourteen inquests were held during the year, being equal to 5·4 per cent. of the total deaths. In England and Wales the percentage of inquests is equivalent to 6·2 per cent. of the total deaths.

The following table gives various items and corresponding figures in England and Wales, with the figures prevailing in your district :—

1932.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Cancer Death-rate.	Diphtheria Death-rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Births.	Inquests.
Smaller Towns England & Wales	16·9	10·8	—	0·31	58	5·8
Sowerby ...	13·0	17·6	2·7	nil	73·3	7

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Sixteen deaths have been registered during the year of

infants under 1 year of age, as compared with 20 in 1931 and 14 in 1930.

The above number gives an infantile mortality rate of 73.3 per 1000 births registered, as compared with 61 in 1931 and 60 in 1930.

The mortality throughout England and Wales was 65 per 1000 births in 1932.

Many of the sixteen deaths may properly be classed as unavoidable, as they occurred during the first weeks after birth and arose from premature birth, congenital defects, etc.

#### Age Distribution of Infant Deaths :—

1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	Resident
6	10	4	4	2	under 1 week
5	5	3	3	3	1 week to 1 month
2	2	3	0	3	1 to 3 months
2	2	2	5	0	3 to 9 months
1	1	2	3	1	9 to 12 months
—	—	—	—	—	
16	20	14	15	9	

The Childs' Welfare Clinic in Sowerby Bridge continues its activities with zeal and great success.

We had no deaths from Diarrhoea in children under two years. In 1931 there were two ; in 1930 none ; in 1929 one ; and three in 1928.

#### ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act there

There were notified during 1932 38 cases, together with 16 cases of Tuberculosis notified under the Tuberculosis Regulations. The total is 54 against 72 during 1931, 64 in 1930, 142 in 1929, and 104 in 1928.

The following table shows the number of the various infectious diseases notified :—

**Table of Zymotic Diseases for 1932  
and preceding five years.**

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Tuberculosis, Lungs.	Tuberculosis, other sites.	Puerperal Fever.	Ophthalaria.	Eucephalia Lothargia.	Smallpox.	Totals.
1932	25	11	1	3	16	1	1	0	0	0	58
1931	25	24	0	2	13	7	1	0	0	0	72
1930	27	6	1	1	12	6	0	0	0	1	64
1929	112	3	11	0	7	4	2	0	1	3	143
1928	70	9	2	7	15	3	2	0	1	5	104
1927	18	1	2	1	11	2	1	0	0	0	36

Scarlet Fever cases were treated at Milner Royd Hospital, and Diphtheria at Brighouse Joint Hospital.

Twenty-four cases of Scarlet Fever were treated at Milner Royd, no case proving fatal.

Eleven cases of Diphtheria were removed to Hospital, no case proving fatal.

We had only one case of Typhoid Fever in the district, and none of Small-pox.

## TUBERCULOSIS TABLE, 1932.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
15	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
25	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
45	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
55	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
65 upwards	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	8	5	1	2	2	3	2	0
1931	4	7	2	0	2	3	1	1
1930	6	6	5	1	7	1	0	3
1929	3	7	1	0	8	6	1	1
1928	6	9	1	2	5	5	1	2

Seven deaths occurred from Tuberculosis in its various forms, against seven in 1931 and eleven in 1930.

The death-rate is equivalent to 0·25 per 1000 per annum against 0·25 in 1931, and 0·37 in 1930.

## RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia were responsible for a total of 13 deaths during the year, equivalent to a death-rate of 0·9 per 1000 per annum, against 0·04 in 1931.

## HEART DISEASE.

There were 49 cases during the year, equivalent to a death-rate of 3·3 per 1000 per annum.

## MEASLES.

No deaths from Measles during 1932.

## HOUSING.

4532 houses exist in the district, of which 4231 are of the working-class type.

The number of new houses erected during the past year is 68.

Municipal Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	16
Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	52

### *Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

(1) Inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	44
(2) Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under Housing Acts (Inspection of District) Regulations	...	...	...	44
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in such a state as to be dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	44

### *Remedy of Defects without Formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	...	...	36
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*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning Act, &c., 1919	...	...	...	None
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	8
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit :—				
(a) by Owners	...	...	...	8
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owner	...	...	None	
(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners to close	...	...	...	None
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts	...	...	None	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied :—				
(a) by Owners	...	...	...	None
(b) by Local Authority	...	...	...	None
C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909	...	...	None	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	2

- (3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made and determined, the dwelling-houses having been made fit ... ... None
- (4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... ... None
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance with Demolition Orders ... ... ... None

## **GENERAL REPORT.**

There were approximately 234 inspections of nuisances during the year. There were found 234 nuisances and of these 230 were abated, thus leaving four outstanding cases at the end of 1932.

Numerous inspections were carried out by your Sanitary Inspector, also in respect of Common Lodging-Houses, Canal Boats, Offensive Trades, &c., the general conditions being found satisfactory.

Seventy-four Cowsheds were inspected and alterations to lighting, drainage, walls and floors have been carried out. All the floors and drains have been re-constructed.

Several seizures of deceased and unsound food have occurred during the year. Particulars of these are to be found in your Sanitary Inspector's report attached hereto.

There are nine Schools in the district, all having a public water supply. Their sanitary condition is satisfactory.

The Sewage Works continues to give satisfaction.

Numerous other matters have received attention during the year, but reference to them here is not necessary, because they have been the subject of report from time to time by your Sanitary Inspector.

These have chiefly regard to inspection of houses, the disinfection of premises after infectious disease, the inspection of factories and workshops, slaughter-houses, etc.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WM. DUGUID, M.B., Ch.B.

# Sanitary Inspector's Report

for the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1932.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of submitting my Annual Report of the work done in your Health Department during the past year.

### **Inspection of Nuisances (Public Health Acts).**

Total Number of Inspections made ...	...	...	263
Re-inspections during progress of Work	...	...	587
Nuisances Found	...	...	234
Nuisances Abated	...	...	230
Outstanding at end of year	...	...	4
Complied with	...	...	230
Informal Notices issued	...	...	234
Statutory Notices issued	...	...	7
Letters and Circulars issued <i>re</i> Sanitary Matters	...	432	

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### **SANITARY WORKS ACCOMPLISHED.**

Drains Tested for Defects	...	...	...	6
New Drains Laid	...	...	...	21
Choked Drains Cleared	...	...	...	25
Yard Gullies Cleansed	...	...	...	11
Inspection Chambers provided	...	...	...	6
New Sinks provided	...	...	...	3
Sink Waste Pipes Disconnected	...	...	...	5
Sink Waste Pipes Repaired	...	...	...	2
Bath and Lavatory Wastes repaired	...	...	...	3

Rain Water Shoots Repaired	...	...	...	...
Troughing and Guttering Repaired	...	...	...	3
Water Closets and Privies Repaired	...	...	...	12
New Water Closets provided	...	...	...	7
Privies converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	9
Dirty Houses Cleansed	...	...	...	5
Passages Cleansed	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding Abated	...	...	...	3
Accumulations of Rubbish Removed	...	...	...	4
Accumulations of Manure Removed	...	...	...	2
Smoke Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	12
Cellar Dwellings Closed	...	...	...	2
Yards Re-paved	...	...	...	2
Water Supplies Stopped	...	...	...	6
Verminous Premises Treated	...	...	...	11
Insufficient Ashbins	...	...	...	19
Offensive Smells from Trades	...	...	...	7
Premises Invested with Rats	...	...	...	3
Premises Flooded	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	22

**PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY  
THE COUNCIL UNDER THE VARIOUS ACTS.**

There are at present:

Fish Friers	..	...	...	...	...	...	23
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. (These include Bottled Milk Purveyors)	..	...	...	...	...	...	107
Bakehouses	..	...	...	...	...	...	10
Slaughter-Houses	..	...	...	...	...	...	4
Common Lodging-Houses	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gutscraper	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tripeboiler	..	...	...	...	...	...	1

### **Overcrowding.**

There have been 3 cases of overcrowding, 2 of which were due to families taking in Lodgers.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Foodstufts.**

The Milk Supply—The milk supply of the district is derived principally from the Sowerby portion of the district. No complaints have been made with respect to the quality, and improvements are being carried out to bring the premises up-to-date.

The number of Cowsheds in the district is	...	64
Number of Cows kept is approximately	...	600
The number of Cowkeepers on the Register is		64
The number of inspections made during the year including visits with the veterinary surgeon when inspecting cattle is	...	187

### **Milk and Dairies.**

The number of Wholesale milk producers in the district is	...	...	...	...	...	5
The number of Retailers on the Register is	...					109

### **Meat Inspection.**

During the year the carcases of animals slaughtered for food and examined are as follows :—

Bovines	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	
756	2194	793	4	—total 3743

Of this amount, 30 cwts. were found to be unfit for food, and was surrendered on request. In addition to this, there have been 112 lbs. of fish and fruit surrendered as unfit for food.

The visits and inspections to the slaughter-houses amount to 495. Inspection of the various places where

food is prepared are made at short periods, and as a rule are found to be clean and wholesome.

### **Water Supply.**

*Sanitary Circumstances of the Council's Area.*—The main water supply of Sowerby Bridge is from the Halifax Corporation by agreement. The water is of good quality, ample for the requirements of the district under ordinary circumstances. The Corporation are constructing an additional reservoir, which will, when completed, overcome any shortage in this direction. The old Sowerby portion of the district is dependent on springs and wells, and in some cases ground water, which is not satisfactory as the water from some of these sources is very liable to pollution.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

There are two rivers passing through the district, viz.: the Calder and the Ryburn, the latter joining the Calder at the County Bridge, and whilst efforts are made to prevent the pollution of the waters, it will be seen that it is well-nigh impossible to effect this owing to the number of districts through which the rivers flow.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

With respect to the sewerage and drainage of the district, it is well sewered and drained. Sewers have been laid at Mill Bank, Hubberton, New Barton and Saw Hill.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

The closet accommodation of the district is now as follows :—

No. of W.C.'s	Pails	Privy Ashpits	No of Closets
1932	3286	201	376

Open Ashpits	Covered Ashpits
90	370

All pail closets and privies are being converted to water closets where the sewer and water supply is available, and even when this has been done, there will be a considerable amount to scavenge, as the majority of the privies are away from the line of the sewer, and the water supply being in the form of wells and springs it will be difficult to convert them to the water carriage system.

### **Scavenging, House Refuse Removal.**

The scavenging of the district is carried out by the Council's staff under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The collection is fortnightly except in cases of the more crowded areas, which receive attention weekly.

The particulars of the collection for the past year are as follows :—

Ashbins cleansed	Ashpits cleansed	Pail closets cleansed
96658	1520	17731
 Privy ashpits cleansed		
	436	
 Total Loads removed to the Destructor and Tips 7991 Loads		

### **Housing and Town Planning Acts (Inspection of District).**

During the past year 44 houses have been inspected under the Housing Acts. Notices were served on the Owners and Occupiers where necessary as follows :—

Informal Notices for repairs	...	...	...	36
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	8
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	None

Four Cellar Dwellings have been closed during the year.

Particulars of the Housing Inspections are to be found in Table D. in the Housing Report.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

168 observations of smoke emitted from the various Mill and Workshop chimneys in the district, and 12 informal notices to abate the nuisance arising from excessive smoke were issued. The average smoke issued from the various chimneys is 2·15 per half-hour, and the limit allowed by the Council is 3 minutes per half-hour.

### **Conclusion.**

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to thank you for your courtesy and consideration at all times, and also to thank my brother Officers for the assistance they have at all times rendered.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

T. GRIME,

M. Inst. M. & Cy. E., Cert. R. San. Inst.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

SOWERBY BRIDGE,

December 31st, 1932.

*To the Chief Canal Boats Inspector, Ministry of Health.*

SIR,

I herewith beg to submit my Annual Report as Inspector of Canal Boats under the above Urban Authority for the year ending December 31st, 1932.

- 1.—Canal Boat Inspector authorised by appointment to examine and report on all boats plying in the district.  
Salary inclusive with payment for other duties.
- 2.—Number of Boats examined during year—5.
- 3.—Three infringements of the Acts or Regulations were discovered.
- 4.—No legal proceedings have been taken.
- 5.—Three Notices were served.
- 6.—No cases of Infectious Disease have been observed.
- 7.—No boats have been detained for cleansing purposes.
- 8.—Number of boats on register is 5.
- 9.—No boats have been registered during the year.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. GRIME,

*Canal Boat Inspector.*

**1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

	Written Inspections.	Notices.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	31	2
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	45	3
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises)	5	0
	—	—
	81	5

**2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—

Insufficient Accommodation	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient Ventilation	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s and Drains Choked	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty Workshops	...	...	...	...	2
					—
				Total	7

All of which have been remedied.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

SOWERBY BRIDGE,

February 19th, 1933.

*The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.*

DEAR SIR,

**The Rats and Mice Destruction Act.**

I have to report that in connection with the above Act 2333 baits have been laid in various parts of the district and over 75 per cent. of these have been taken.

All the tips have been treated monthly and baits have been laid along the banks of the rivers at various times during the past year. We have had but five complaints respecting rats, and have taken action immediately with satisfactory results.

All ashpits in the area are treated periodically, and by this means we are able to keep the rats well under control.

During National Rat Week, 1932, all tips, ashpits, and other likely places were treated with Red Squill, which I find very effective in keeping the rodents down in the district. From what I have seen, I am of the opinion that the Red Squill is doing its work satisfactorily.

The House Refuse Scavengers report the presence of vermin when they are met with in ashpits, and immediate steps are taken to destroy the rodents without delay.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

T. GRIME,

*Sanitary Inspector.*





